

CIATED
CHARITIES
Meeting Held
Yesterday.
READ BY S. B. DOLE
Burger's Report.

to us for those comforts which they are unable to provide for themselves, and the methods of the new charity enable us to give to these in great abundance.

Charitable Honolulu.

Looking back over the last nine months and the work that has been done in this office, we can appreciate the burden that has been voluntarily borne by the charity women who, generally, have responded to every appeal made to them, and consequently have been constantly improving. There is a central office for interviews, and the unworthy are discovered; and work can be found for the able-bodied, and clothing distributed to those who really need it, and so the need of personal applications to the homes of people is done away with.

We appreciate the ready help and sympathy of the officers and members of the Associated Charities, and of the societies affiliating with it, and of those ladies and gentlemen who have so generously aided in relieving numerous emergency cases; of those who have donated clothing, and those who have given employment.

Thus are the poor of the city cared for through the activity of some, the donations of others, and the ready sympathy of all.

Treasurer's Report.

The following were the figures of the treasurer's report:

RECEIPTS.

Subscriptions—Goo Kim, \$2; per S. B. Dole, \$1; Yee Chum, 25 cents; P. King, 25 cents; W. G. Irwin, \$100; C. M. Cooke, \$100; J. B. Castle, \$50; Mrs. J. P. Cooke, \$50; Miss Paulding, \$50; Geo. F. Renton, \$25; T. May, \$100; J. H. H. 50 cents; Hackfeld & Co., \$1,000; L. Ahlo, \$20; S. B. Dole, \$50; Mrs. J. B. Castle, \$10; Mrs. N. M. White, \$10; J. B. Atherton, \$100; E. F. Dillingham, \$100; M. Robinson, \$100; E. F. Bishop, \$50; W. Walker, \$50; F. W. Macfarlane, \$50; Kaulaui School, \$5; Central Union Church, \$154; J. A. Hopper, \$10; W. W. W. \$100; Mrs. Mary Castle, \$15; Mrs. C. D. Castle, \$10; G. P. Castle, \$100; donations, \$2,355; Membership fees, \$135; interest, \$22; Grand total, \$2,812.

DISBURSEMENTS.

General relief, \$3,200; emergency relief, \$25.00; maintaining Victoria Hospital, \$299.81; office expenses, \$14.80; furniture, \$14.25; rent, \$196.65; supplies, \$86.75; telephone, \$40; salary manager, \$500; manager's expenses to San Francisco, \$300; total, \$2,142.06. Cash on hand May 16th, 1900, \$699.54.

President Dole's Paper.

Mr. Dole spoke as follows: I have often wondered if there was any reproach in the words of Jesus when He said to His murmuring disciples, "Ye without doubt the times of pauperism is no credit to the intelligence of any community, however much it may successfully appeal to thoughtless generosity."

The constant presence of beggars on the streets of a city tells the story of a defective social system and a defective sentiment which is satisfied with what it calls charity. It is a weak, inefficient impulse whose only results are an occasional temporary relief and a steady building up of pauperism.

The man who adds a partner to the considerable income of a professional beggar, and who in the glow of self-approval, for which he has paid his money, harbors per chance a pitying contempt for the person who would refuse a like pittance under similar circumstances, may be ignorant of the harm he is doing by an act so blind and irresponsible, or he may be only thoughtless; it is more likely that he is busy or indolent and cannot or will not spend the time in which he is vaguely conscious ought to be done, and he pays his tax to relieve himself from an uneasy sense of responsibility. The quarter is invested for his own benefit as really as if it had been paid to a priest for absolution or to a physician for medicine.

Professional Beggars.

There is another class of givers who are largely responsible for the existence and prosperity of professional beggars, and who have sensitive natures and the sight of misery gives them pain, which they seek to alleviate by seemingly alleviating, but really perpetuating, the apparent need on exhibition before them. Like the first class, they cheerfully pay the necessary tax as a desirable personal investment.

It would hardly appear that either of these classes are laying up treasure in heaven through such payments, though they may arrive there and prosper on other grounds. Investigations into the sociology of pauperism reveal the fact that as a rule all those who solicit alms are professional beggars. The exceptions are few. This is the experience of the manager of the Associated Charities of Honolulu during the first year of its existence. Rev. Mr. Birnie, the late pastor of the Central Union Church, told me that during or just after his theological studies, he was at one time living in New York city and having a good deal of leisure, he made it a rule to investigate the case of every person who came to the house for alms. There were a good many, and not a single one of them turned out to be a proper case for relief.

Horizon is Widening.

At the opening of the second year of the Associated Charities of Hawaii is the threshold of a new departure. Our horizon is widening. Opportunities are greater and more numerous. Every citizenship from America brings visitors and settlers. Demand and supply are readjusting their relations. There is a coming harvest for the reaper of grain and the reaper of tares. The honest and the industrious are welcome; sharper, swifter, and more numerous, professional criminals and professional paupers are here already, and more are coming and will come if we do not organize to make the Paradise of the Pacific a veritable hades for these enemies of society.

The Associated Charities is not an organization to aid the professional beggar to live comfortably without work, but rather to force him, for want of patronage, to turn to respectable means of subsistence or to migrate to other lands. It is an investigating body seeking to discriminate between impostors and worthy objects of charity, and to protect the community from the former and aid it in directing the flow of its beneficence to the latter; to conserve the expenditure of charitable funds, that they be not wasted, but so where they will do the most good. It is in no sense a rival to the charitable societies of Honolulu, but to an extent an agent of them all.

Accomplishments of a Year.

What it has accomplished in the one year of its existence the manager has tried to tell in her report; but the story cannot all be told by any one person. The breaking up of begging clothes from house to house to be afterwards sold, and the marked diminution of begging from house to house, which has long been so common in Honolulu, are pretty substantial gains.

Much more would have been done in these and similar lines, it is safe to say, had it not been for the many misguided persons who have persisted in indiscriminate giving.

the nature of the case may demand.

Finding Work for Them.

It will be seen from the report of the manager that the work of finding employment for those seeking it has become an important feature of the work of the association. There is no insurmountable obstacle in obtaining work for the industrious at all times, and in the present thriving condition of business and industry the difficulty is slight. It is, however, rendered harder by the number of lazy, inefficient applicants who desire wages without very strenuous working to earn them, or who, having no habits of industry, are incapable of steady labor.

This enterprise of furnishing employment will be developed by the association as opportunity offers and the funds permit. The Government must assist in the solution of the question of what to do with the hopeless paupers. The vagrant law needs revision for meeting this duty in the best way. These people cannot be allowed to prey on the community and existing laws the jail is the only haven reserved for those convicted of vagrancy. The chaingang is better for the public as needy objects of charity. The prison and the chaingang, however, are in some ways unsuitable for this class, and perhaps as a result thereof but few are sent there. A special statute for vagrants, somewhat analogous to the legal provisions under which the Reform School is conducted, by which they might be confined and compelled to work for a term, would, if vigorously carried out, make Honolulu a very unpopular place for these gentlemen of leisure.

Honolulu Easy Going.

Honolulu has been easy-going in the past in relation to this subject. When the city population was inconsiderable, the few beggars who lived on the streets, were, in some cases, the former business acquaintances of those to whom they applied, and generally were upon speaking terms of more or less familiarity with them. Business men hated to refuse these solicitations and often paid regularly a weekly or monthly tax to these mendicants, thus rendering hopelessly permanent a tendency to a life of dishonorable dependence which they might have escaped but for such thoughtless kindness.

The different benevolent societies of Honolulu have done a great deal of good in alleviating the sufferings of the poor in some ways, but in some ways they have done harm. It is left to itself it will undoubtedly, under the new social outlook, grow rapidly and become a serious menace to the charitable work of the community.

I would appeal to all interested in this subject to throw their influence and financial support strongly in favor of a strict and radical fight against pauperism to the end that it may be eradicated, and that Honolulu may be a city free from the reproach and injury which will be fixed upon it if vagrants and habitual mendicants become a permanent feature of our social system.

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